

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 SNM-02 L-01 CIAE-00 /029 W

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R 031157Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6987

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13126

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, US

SUBJ: RELEASE OF NARCOTICS SUSPECT: SUKRI SUKIRPHIROM

REF: A. BANGKOK 12453; B. BANGKOK 12582

1. AS MENTIONED IN REF A, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE SUKRI CASE WITH PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT JUNE 27 (REF B). WE HAVE SINCE RECEIVED WORD THAT KHUKRIT, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR PEKING, ASKED POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL PHOT PHEKANAN FOR A REPORT ON THE CASE. THIS WILL ENABLE THE POLICE OFFICIAL WHO ALERTED US TO THE PROBLEM TO GET HIS REPORT THROUGH PHOT TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE REPORT IS SUPPOSED TO BE READY BY THE TIME KHUKRIT RETURNS FROM PEKING JULY 5.

2. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED THE SUKRI CASE WITH OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE PALACE, AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THE INTERIOR OFFICIAL, WHO PROMISED HE WOULD LOOK FURTHER INTO THE CASE, SAID THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT SUKRI HAD REGISTERED A COMPLAINT WITH THE PROSECUTOR. SUKRI SAID THAT HE HAD MADE THE CONFESSION UNDER DURESS ABOUT THE 25 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN THAT POLICE SEIZED IN HIS CAR MARCH 22. THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR  
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HAD ASKED THE POLICE FOR AN EXPLANANTION. RECEIVING

NO REPLY, THE PROSECUTOR RELAESED SUKRI WHEN HIS 84 DAY DETENTION LIMIT EXPIRED. THE OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST SUKRI STILL STAND, AND THAT THE POLICE COULD RE-ARREST HIM WHEN THEY CHOSE.

3. POLCE SOURCES SAY THAT THIS STORY IS A SMOKE-SCREEN TO COVER A BRIDBE OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TO SECURE SUKRI'S RELEASE. THE POLICE DID REPLY BUT TO A DIFFERENT INDIVIDUAL THAN TO THE REQUESTER OF THE EXPALANATION. A DEA SOURCE SAID JULY 1 THAT A RETIRED POLICE MAJOR HAD ARANGED TO PAY OFF US\$150,000 IN SEVERAL INSTALLMENTS TO THAI POLICE AND CRIMINAL COURT OFFICIALS TO GET SUKRI OUT OF JAIL AND HAVE THE CHARGES DROPPED.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY PRESSURE IN THE HOPE OF ACHIEVING SUKRI'S RE-ARREST, TRIAL, CONVICTION, AND SENTENCING.  
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEA.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** RELEASE OF NARCOTICS SUSPECT: SUKRI SUKIRPHIROM  
**TAGS:** SNAR, TH, US, (SUKRI SUKIRPHIROM)  
**To:** STATE  
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